

10. How may all have "the risen life"?
Let the music committee provide special songs
for this service.

C. F. YODER.

Pleasant Grove, Iowa

Christian Endeavor Society met at the church Feb. 23. Altho the roads were bad quite a number came out and we had a splendid meeting. The subject for the evening was Obedience. After the meeting they elected the following officers: President, Ada Sanger; Vice President, Mattie Miller; Secretary and Treasurer, Moselle Chapman; Organist, Mattie Miller. The meeting closed by repeating the Lord's Prayer.

MOSELLE CHAPMAN.

North English, Iowa.

Christian Life

In Christ Complete

(To the memory of J. M. B., whose dying words were, "In Christ, complete.")

O, God, that it were mine to dwell
Where evermore thy anthems swell;
To mingle with the glory-throng,
To join in heaven's triumphant song;
Where, free from sin, I shall be meet
To see thy face, and be complete
In Christ!

God, keep me faithful to the end,
Be Thou my never-failing Friend;
Keep Love enthroned and Hope aflame,
Till gentle Death whisper my name;
When, wondrous change, O, strangely sweet!
I shall awake and be complete
In Christ!

—Emily Beatrice Gnagey in The Living Church.

A FRUITFUL SOURCE OF HAPPINESS

LOUIS ALBERT BANKS

I was spending the day in the forest last summer on very serious intent in company with a lumberman. We were carefully looking over the woods, and thru one grove of timber after another, to estimate the value of the timber on the tract. As we were passing thru a splendid spruce grove, where the trees standing close together grew up long and slender, we noticed on one tree a very attractive display of gum. The lumberman at the sight broke off whatever he was saying, and remarked:

"There is something that would please your children, and would be worth more in their eyes than all the lumber you've got on the entire tract."

He climbed up into the tree and dug out a big handful of gum with his pocketknife, which I wrapped up and stowed away in my pocket for the children. As I looked into their laughing faces and saw the quick look of appreciation and surprised satisfaction that greeted my unfolding that package of spruce gum in the evening, I thought my friend was right. That little pleasure, fresh and happy as the gum was fragrant, counted more to them than all the money that the lumber would bring.

And, after all, isn't life very much like that to the children that have grown older? Much of the happiness of life is made up of the little things that come to us by the way-side of our daily experience. The little gift that comes on the birthday may come thru the mail a long distance, and is, therefore, all the more of a surprise. The money value is small, but the evidence of thoughtfulness and of loving remembrance fills the receiver's heart with gladness. It has the power to give buoyance and good cheer. It is only a handful of spruce gum, but the smell is sweet to the nostrils, and a tired soul girds himself or herself anew at the scent of it.

Many people make the great mistake of denying themselves the luxury of bestowing enjoyment on their children or their friends, hoping that after a while the time will come when they will make up for it all by some great exhibition of generosity or kindness. But that is a fatal mistake. If it is children they are thinking of, they will be growing older all the time, and ere they know it they will be grown up to men and women, and the opportunity to give them a happy childhood, which is so sacred and blessed a thing to do, will have passed forever. I have known more than one boy to whom a handful of spruce gum, given to him by his father, with loving appreciation, when he was a youngster of ten or twelve years, would have been more appreciated than a check for a thousand dollars, or ten times that sum, a dozen years later.

The same mistake is being made concerning reading and intellectual and spiritual culture. A man gives himself up to business with all-absorbing devotion, consecrating his vitality to it so completely that he has no strength left to keep in touch with the new books, to look into the better and richer storehouse of his friend's heart, to cultivate the gentler and sweeter relations with his wife, to muse and meditate in the rich mines of Scripture. With a fatal economy he denies himself these priceless necessities year after year, expecting some time to win such business success that he will be able to retire from the awful pace to which he has set himself, and make up to his own nature, to his wife, and to his friends for these hard and trying years. What a fearful delusion that is! For these passing years, when business takes the place of love, and ambition to get on absorbs the force, some of which should have gone into friendship and music reading, work such havoc that if the time come that the man may retire, he finds that all these opportunities have passed away. The love of reading which was once his it is now too late to cultivate; his own nature has hardened, and it is not possible that all those sweet graces which could have been developed so easily years ago can now have any chance to prosper in his heart or life. Only a handful of spruce gum taken daily for the truer and nobler things of life would have transformed his whole career and faced it toward heaven.

We cannot any of us afford to put off the best things till the last. We must cultivate our friends and our children, and give some attention to their happiness and their joy every day as we go along. We must get a little glimpse into the new book, a little touch of music, breathe a little breath out of the world of art every day. We must get close to our friends and show them the love that is in our hearts, and drink a little of their affection every day. We must have our time for a psalm or a chapter from the inspired word and our meditation and communion with the heavenly Father every day as we go along. A little thing, do you say? O yes, only a handful of spruce gum, but it is fresh off the tree; it has the breath of the woods about it; there is something of heaven in it, and it keeps us from settling down into hard, unloving human machines. It keeps the heart warm. It keeps the brain clear. It keeps the face upward and the step onward.—Christian Advocate.

Rest—The Gift of Christ

Among the precious gifts of Christ to those who believe on and trust him, is *rest*. "I will give you rest." Who ever heard of any mere man presuming to say such a thing to the laboring and heavy-laden ones of this life? Man, amid the sins and trials and responsibilities of this life, is represented as both a laborer and a burden-bearer. Labor is the lot of man and burden bearing the lot of the domestic beast. But man taking his whole life together is both laborer and burden-bearer. To all such Jesus gives rest. Who has not at times sighed for rest from the incessant labor of life, and groaned under its heavy burdens? Back of all this is the hard service which sin imposes on all men. As Pharaoh oppressed the children of Israel in Egypt, so the god of this world drives his slaves to their labor; often compelling them to toil at "brick-making without straw," and loading them with the burdens of their own doings, until, like Christian in Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," they can endure the load no longer. To all such the sweet, strong and loving call of Jesus Christ comes as music to the ear and as hope to the soul.

It will be noticed that the rest Jesus promises is a twofold one. First he says: "I will give you rest"; and then he promises: "Ye shall find rest to your souls." This is not without significance. It tells of the rest that comes with the forgiveness of sins and that which comes with service. Sin is a bondage accompanied with labor. Jesus is a Redeemer, delivering and setting us free by a purchase more precious than that of silver and gold—even by his own precious blood, which he poured out as a ransom for men. He then invites men to come to him, and in him accept deliverance from their bondage, and so find rest. Moreover, his power is such, by the Spirit, that, having come to him for forgiveness and justification from all things that they could not be justified by the law of Moses, the heavy burden of sin on the